CLAIMS

Claims 21 to 23 are canceled.

24. (amended) A railway tie that comprises two elastically supported ~~An internally resilient railroad tie apparatus equipped with block retainers in steel railroad tie cases so as to hold blocks including a boot with an elastomeric pad positioned at the bottom of said boot which are received in the tie cases for supporting rails forming complete rail tie assemblies, said apparatus comprising: a device for retaining the~~ blocks placed one under each rail, wherein each block is restricted from an excessive upward movement or complete withdrawal from said railway tie by a pair of ~~in the~~ tie block retainers attached to said railway tie next to each of said elastically supported blocks, and wherein said tie block retainer is a releasable device that comprises a horizontally protruding elastic member that engages the corresponding mating surface of said elastically supported block. ~~apparatus such that said rail tie assemblies may be lifted and moved by rail during track installation and maintenance, and for releasing the blocks from the ties when the elastomeric pad or the boot has to be replaced or removed.~~

25. (amended) A tie block retainer of claim 24 for a concrete tie using a releasable device for retaining tie blocks (two each) inserted in ~~a~~ said concrete tie, wherein the tie block retainer comprises of a cast iron insert equipped with an anchor member for anchorage in ~~the~~ said concrete tie, and with a curved slot at the top of ~~the~~ said anchor member to receive leaf springs that are secured by a vertical pin inserted into aligned holes on top of ~~the~~ said anchor member.

26. (amended) A tie block retainer of claim 24 for a steel tie using a releasable device for retaining tie blocks (two each) inserted in said steel tie, wherein the block

retainer comprises of a cast iron insert equipped with an anchor member having a threaded extension for attachment to ~~the~~ said steel tie, and with a curved slot at the top of ~~the~~ said anchor member to receive leaf springs that are secured by a vertical pin inserted into aligned holes on top of ~~the~~ said anchor member.

Claim 27 (amended) ~~The internally resilient railroad~~ A tie ~~of claim 25 wherein a space is left between the bottom surface of the bottom leaf spring and the corresponding contact surface of the~~ block retainer of claim 24 engaging with its said horizontally protruding elastic retaining member a trapezoidal rod of adjustable thickness that is inserted into a trapezoidal slot located on the top of said elastically supported block to provide a mating surface. ~~so that the upward movement of the rail occurring at a certain distance from applied wheel load is facilitated without lifting the concrete tie case of the internally resilient railroad tie and without any other interference with its contact plane on ballast.~~

28. (amended) A tie block retainer of claim ~~26~~ 24 wherein a space is left between the bottom surface of said horizontally protruding retaining member ~~the bottom leaf spring~~ and the corresponding contact surface of the tie block inserted in said railway ~~a steel~~ tie so that the upward movement of the rail occurring at a certain distance from applied wheel load is facilitated without lifting said railway ~~the steel~~ tie from its contact plane on ballast.

29. (amended) A tie block retainer of claim 24 bridging over a tie block sleeve, wherein the tie block sleeve comprises of an electrically insulating member attached to the top of said tie block, while the ~~A tie block sleeve made of electrically insulating material and attached to the top of a~~ tie block ~~that~~ is inserted in ~~a~~ said railway tie in such

a manner that ~~the~~ said block sleeve provides an overhang continuous around ~~the~~ said tie block, and wherein ~~the~~ said tie block sleeve protrudes outward and slopes downward in such a manner that the bottom side of ~~the~~ said overhang is protected from directly falling rain water.